

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 4-9, 12-17, 19 and 23-27 remain in the application. Claims 1, 3, 10, 11, 18 and 20-22 have been cancelled.

The first paragraph on page 5 of the specification has been amended to delete the reference to "upper edge 15" in line 5, since as kindly noted by the Examiner, that number identifies the "top opening".

The allowance of claims 3, 10, 11, 15, 17, 21 and 22 subject to being rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is noted with appreciation. Of these claims, claims 3, 10, 11, 21 and 22 have been rewritten in independent form as claims 23-27, respectively, and are now presumed allowable. Moreover, claims 2 and 4-9 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 23 and claim 19 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 26, whereby these claims are also submitted as allowable.

This leaves claims 12-14 and 16 for further consideration. These claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Welt (U.S. Patent 3,394,425) in view of Passafiume (U.S. Patent 6,119,303). According to the Examiner, the patent to Welt discloses the invention substantially as claimed with the exception of the frame. For this feature, the Examiner relies on the disclosure in Passafiume of a roller wiper/grid (14) including a frame (24, 26, etc.), and contends that it would have been obvious to have provided such a frame to the device of Welt to provide added rigidity.

However, it is respectfully submitted that if one skilled in the art were to provide the device of Welt with a frame extending completely around the wiping surface as


taught by Passafiume, one skilled in the art would eliminate the laterally spaced feet of Welt since the lower angled portions 54, 56 of the L-shaped channels 20, 22 of Passafiume serve the same purpose. Moreover, the feet 24, 26 of Welt are at one end of the side bars 24, 26 which are rotatably connected along opposing edges of the sheet 12 of expanded metal, and thus to provide Welt with a frame extending completely around the wiping surface as taught by Passafiume would be directly contrary to the teachings of Welt. Furthermore, neither of these references discloses or suggests providing a pair of laterally spaced feet extending rearwardly from a bottom edge of a frame extending completely around the grid wiping surface as recited in claim 12, much less wherein the feet are rigidly affixed to the bottom edge of the frame and extend rearwardly at a slight outward angle relative to respective side edges of the frame as further recited in claims 13 and 14, or wherein the outer ends of the respective feet are angled rearwardly and inwardly as further recited in claim 14. Accordingly, claims 12-14 are submitted as clearly allowable, as is claim 16 which depends from claim 12 and further recites a pair of hooks extending rearwardly from opposite side edges of the frame in spaced relation from a bottom edge of the frame a distance slightly greater than the height of the container.

For the foregoing reasons, this application is now believed to be in condition for final allowance of all of the remaining claims 2, 4-9, 12-17, 19 and 23-27, and early action to that end is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner disagree with applicant's attorney in any respect, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney in an effort to resolve such differences.

In the event that an extension of time is necessary, this should be considered a petition for such an extension. If required, fees are enclosed for the extension of time and/or for the presentation of new and/or amended claims. In the event any additional fees are due in connection with the filing of this reply, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Attorney Docket No. WOOSP0131US).

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

By 

Donald L. Otto
Registration No. 22,125

1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2191
Phone: 216-621-1113
Fax: 216-621-6165

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